

Sacramento Homelessness COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

Weekly Progress Report

Brought to you in partnership by Sacramento County, City of Sacramento, Sacramento Steps Forward and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

August 27, 2021

Welcome to the report highlighting progress and highlights of the COVID-19 Homeless Response Team's response efforts as part of the **Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan**. This report includes **actions and information to date through mid-August 2021**, with specific dates noted for each update provided.

Re-Housing

Our COVID-19 response remains focused on permanent solutions as we work toward our ambitious goal of rapidly moving most households from the COVID-19 shelters into permanent housing with support for ongoing stability or with interim housing and shelters as an alternative when that is not possible.

- **As of August 19, 2021, 334 total individuals have exited the COVID-19 shelters to stable housing** since the shelters opened in April 2020. An additional 258 have exited to temporary housing or shelter destinations such as emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.
- Shelter guests continue to work with re-housing programs or onsite navigators to identify and progress along pathways to permanent housing.

Support for re-housing providers working with clients in COVID-19 shelters continues to assist providers to accelerate and monitor progress toward housing, including ongoing, regular case conferencing by program and bi-weekly meetings of Program Leads and providers. Recent provider meetings have focused on tips and strategies for finding housing options in the community, working with private market landlords, and reducing barriers for clients with particularly challenging backgrounds.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) Program Update



Our last newsletter included an overview of the EHV program. The Sacramento program – a collaboration between the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) – is well underway. As of August 20, 2021, there have been:

- 1,572 assessments completed
- 594 referrals made to SHRA
- 50 different contributing agencies
- 255 applications received
- 13 denials
- 14 vouchers issued

Weekly office hours, Tuesdays from 1:00-2:00pm, are still being offered, with the **focus now on completing applications for clients** who have been referred to SHRA. The zoom information for the office hours is: [Zoom Meeting link](#) | Meeting ID: 872 9747 5513 | Passcode: 000985 | Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 US

Isolation/Quarantine

As an emergency response to COVID-19, medically supported isolation care centers, and preventative quarantine care centers have been temporarily funded to provide safe places for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID+, symptomatic or otherwise highly vulnerable.

The total number of rooms available currently and the number of individuals/households served since April 8, 2020 **through August 19, 2021** are as follows:

Medically Supported Isolation Care Center



15 rooms available

Total of 487 individuals/422 HH served
thru 8/19/2021

Preventative Quarantine Care Center



357 rooms available

Total of 1,564 individuals/1,300 HH
served thru 8/19/2021

**Total unduplicated individuals served since 4/8/20: 1,650.*

COVID Vaccines and Testing

Vaccine Planning and Distribution

County Public Health is coordinating vaccine distribution for persons experiencing homelessness and is utilizing the Johnson and Johnson single-dose and the Moderna 2-dose vaccine for vaccination efforts for persons experiencing homelessness.

As of August 13, 2021, a total of 1,970 vaccination doses have been administered to people experiencing homelessness by the Public Health Department Vaccination Partnership:

- 1,453 Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses
- 517 Moderna vaccine doses

Testing

County Public Health in partnership with medical partners continue with robust COVID-19 testing at shelters, encampments and isolation/quarantine care centers with the goal of being able to do widespread testing to ensure the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness.

As of Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, a total of 6,907 COVID-19 tests had been administered to people experiencing homelessness at shelters, encampments, quarantine care centers, and Loaves and Fishes, **57 of which returned positive results and 6,850 of which returned negative results.** Testing has continued in March-August and we anticipate having updated numbers to share in a future report.

Ensuring Safety and Health for Persons Living Outdoors

This strategy is focused around providing coordinated support to people who are unsheltered to remain safely in place per CDC guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19.

In April 2020, the Board of Supervisors voted to fund sanitation stations (toilet and sinks) at several dozen locations across the county to serve homeless encampments as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 40 stations, while dynamic in location, have been serving our neighbors experiencing homelessness since then.

The County planned to scale back emergency funding on the sanitation stations, when local case rates were on the decline. The plan was to continue funding up to 25 locations in unincorporated county, and provide vendor and placement details to each city for them to determine how to move forward with locations in their jurisdiction. However, given the recent upward trend of COVID-19 cases in our community, the county paused any plan to make changes to the current sanitation station structure.